

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 9 are amended. The amendments to claim 1 are supported by the specification and drawings as filed. "Operating distal portion" is supported at page 7, line 4 to page 8, line 17, and Figs. 1-3. The "proximal end of the control sheath" is supported at page 7, line 4 to page 8, line 6, page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 13, especially at lines 1-3 of page 10, and by Fig. 1. No new matter is added.

Claims 7 and 9 are amended to correct obvious typographical errors. The requirement that the claims "particularly point out and distinctly claim" the invention is met when a person experienced in the field of the invention would understand the scope of the subject matter that is patented when the claim is read in conjunction with the rest of the specification. "If the claims when read in light of the specification reasonably apprise those skilled in the art of the scope of the invention, §112 demands no more." *Miles Laboratories, Inc. v. Shandon*, 997 F.2d 870, 875, 27 USPQ2d 1123, 1126 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *see also Union Pacific Resources Co. v. Chesapeake Energy Corp.*, 236 F.3d 684, 692, 57 USPQ2d 1293, 1297 (Fed. Cir. 2001); *North American Vaccine, Inc. v. American Cyanamid Co.*, F.3d 1571, 1579, 28 USPQ2d 1333, 1339 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *Hybritech, Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies*, 802 F.2d 1367, 1385, 231 USPQ 81, 94-95 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In claim 7, the phrase "through which and endoscope shaft may be slidably passed" contains an obvious typographical error, and should be "through which an endoscope shaft may be slidably passed." Likewise, in claim 9, "endoscopid accessory operative device" is an obvious typographical error, and should be "endoscopic accessory operative device." These claims would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to be typographical errors, and there is no basis for believing that one of ordinary skill would not have understood the scope of these claims.

Applicant(s) submit(s) that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request(s) early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant(s') attorney/agent would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is

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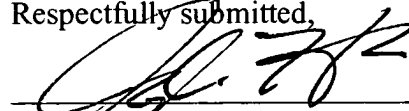
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Preliminary Amendment

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cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney/agent of record. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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